

chance, to be sure to go see that exhibit. It is interesting the way this is coming up today in good timing with that. That exhibit concentrates a lot on the founding of Israel and also the ancient history of Israel and if you go see that exhibit, you'll see where the Bible came from, the history of Judaism, the history of Christianity, the history of ancient Israel and where we are today. I guess what I walked away with, perhaps is the most interesting thing of it, is that there are hundreds of thousands of fragments. They are all religious text. There are nine hundred documents that they got out of the hundreds of thousands and out of those nine hundred documents, two hundred of them are Biblical. Of those two hundred that are Biblical, they relate back to every book in the Old Testament except Esther. They were copies of the original text that the original Hebrew writers did of the Word of God. What is so amazing about it is that, although they are a thousand years earlier than what we had prior to their discovery in 1947, they are a thousand years earlier than anything we had in existence prior to 1947, there is no substantive deviation between them and the text that we had a thousand years later. The main thing that shows is that these people who copied these texts, copied these texts over and over again, were so incredibly meticulous and careful and perfect in their copying of these texts that they virtually did not make mistakes. Another thing that I thought was amazing is that there was a special type of print used on the ones that were the most important and they were the ones that they thought were God talking directly to the authors and it was called Paleo-Hebrew and that is what Deuteronomy was written in and that is because they believed that it was God talking directly to Moses. It is just fascinating so I would urge that, in addition to supporting this resolution, you do go to see that exhibit. Thank you."

Senator Hagan:

"Thank you, Senator Weinstein, for bringing forth this resolution. I think it is interesting to note that on May 14 when Israel was declared a Country, President Truman immediately sent forth a proclamation that the United States would recognize Israel and I think we also know that Israel is one of our key allies in the world and the only true democracy in the Middle East. Fourteen years ago, I had the pleasure of visiting Israel with the NCCJ, the National Conference for Community and Justice in Greensboro along with the Jewish Federation and it was an Interfaith mission. We ended up going to the Keneset, we met with many government leaders, we floated in the Dead Sea, and we climbed Masada. We really got to have an incredible feel for the wonderful Country of Israel and its people. Listening to what Senator Weinstein also said and how they cherish their democracy and peace, you see it first-hand on a day-to-day basis. I thank you for this resolution and ask for your support."

Senator Rand:

"Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate, about ten years ago I was able to go to Israel with a group and Senator Weinstein was along and it was one of the most interesting things I ever did. I had no idea it would have the impact on me that it did. As Senator Hagan said, we also went and floated in the Dead Sea and

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